



Universal Acceptance Day Uruguay - May 26 , 2025

Presentation of ISOC LAC

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Christian O'Flaherty : No, one thing I'd like is for you to ask questions that interrupt. I'm not going to use slides , so I'd rather keep it more interactive, taking advantage of the fact that I'm here.

And I wanted to take advantage of this topic and congratulate the chapter first, and all of you, for your interest. I'm ISOC Staff. There are chapters in every country, and the chapters' goal is to be somewhat aligned with the organization's objectives.

I think most people are familiar with the organization, but it's been around for over 30 years and was created to maintain this internet model, which is necessary for things like this. Throughout the organization's evolution, the themes, focuses, and priorities have been updated somewhat.

At the very beginning, when it was created in 1992, Internet use was almost negligible compared to other services. But at that time, it was beginning to gain

commercial use, and there was growing concern that the decision-making processes that had been in place up until then weren't going to be adequate.

At that time, for example, the biggest concern had to do with standards and the IETF and how decisions were made. We had to preserve the independence of standards development, and this organization was created to look after the IETF, but also to identify the problems and work to make the Internet truly for everyone, which is the organization's motto, which says, "The Internet is for everyone."

Once the IETF was organized, priorities shifted. Another was to bring the Internet to all regions and try to connect universities, so that through them, the Internet could develop in the countries. There were people from SESIU and all of us, who were in universities at the time, were somewhat instructed by ISOC in this task of reaching out, making it possible for disconnected places to reach the Internet. And so, things kept changing.

When I joined the organization, concerns were about ensuring the Internet continued to scale properly. We were also very concerned about the low adoption of IPv6 and technical issues that had a lot to do with infrastructure. Then there were security issues.

And the organization incorporated issues related to trying to preserve this model so that decisions related to the Internet follow these collaborative processes. The issue of universal acceptance is a good example of something that, if we don't follow this collaborative model, has no solution. It's not possible with a law, with regulations, with the traditional methods we have for solving problems, to ensure that all the world's servers have the correct configuration so they can receive emails, for example. There are issues that can only be resolved correctly if we use this Internet model for decision-making.

A very useful model for describing and explaining how these different sectors work is the layered model used by ICANN. In that ICANN model, they have the telecommunications layer at the bottom, which is a highly regulated layer, containing all mobile services and infrastructure. It's a very local layer; it's a layer for each country. It's understandable that there's a lot of regulation, control, auditing, and political power in that telecommunications layer.

In that ICANN model, they have the telecommunications layer at the bottom, which is where all mobile services and those that create infrastructure are contained. In a very large city like this, it wouldn't be possible to have anarchy in the use of

spectrum or allow anyone to tear up the streets to lay cables and fiber optics. But things need to be orderly in that telecommunications area, and the way to achieve that order is through regulation.

So, it's acceptable that communiqués can play that role of, on the one hand, making decisions about how things are organized and having police control to execute them. But then we have problems like this, where the names of many officials in all countries, many actors, are involved.

Another more complex example, or just as complex as this one, is one we were very active in a few years ago, which has to do with routing security. This is an issue where there may be interest, because now that the Internet is critical infrastructure, governments are all very concerned about the Internet and ensuring it doesn't fail.

There was a power outage, in that huge power outage that happened in Spain. The biggest news was that there was no internet and everyone was desperate because they didn't have power, they didn't have a lot of services, but they didn't have internet, and that's why people were dying, why hospitals couldn't perform operations. The impact was terrible, so there's a concern about regulating or controlling or making decisions to preserve that service, which is so terrible, right?

There are issues on the Internet that require solutions. One is, for example, Internet use. For example, the issue of routing security, which is a problem that ISOC recognized about 10 years ago as one that required a coordinated solution.

When a problem is identified like this and attempted to be solved with traditional tools, the solutions are bound to be poor. So, if, for example, regulations had required interconnections to have certain rules and be secure, and operators were to be inspected to ensure proper configuration, that wouldn't have been a solution.

So, oftentimes, Internet problems are attempted to be solved with traditional solutions that don't solve the problem, that don't resolve the issue, and sometimes make it even more complicated. Fortunately, the community at that time took up the problem, created a program called Manners, which is now completely independent, and has solved many of the problems we could have had if work on it hadn't started ten years ago.

This is another example, isn't it? A state could say, well, in this country where we use this different language, we have to solve the problem because it can't be that names aren't accepted, our emails aren't accepted on the servers, so we're going to

enforce legislation, to regulate so that it's mandatory to configure the servers in a certain way. Well, that's no good, that's no good, that doesn't solve the problem.

The way to solve it is to generate interest, hold meetings like this one, explain the problem, and involve those who can really solve it—the operators of those servers. And we're increasingly seeing these kinds of problems where the layers are mixed, and we want to solve problems that exist, for example, at the internet level with regulations that aren't necessary.

No? Or the other way around, problems that arise at the top layer, in use, in exploitation... In a presentation, Rodrigo said the top layer is life itself... right? Now, on the internet, and it affects us in everything, so anything that happens in life and that happens through the internet, we want or try to solve it with a patch on the internet or an affected internet. For example, the police can't open messages between two criminals, and what they want is to weaken registration or weaken messaging protocols or weaken things on the internet to be able to access criminals' messages. That's useless; that doesn't solve the problem, it ruins the internet, and on the other hand, criminals who know that this is going to happen will use other messages.

So, trying to solve problems that affect the Internet doesn't solve the problem and affects the Internet. And that's what we have to do, because ignoring the problems isn't a solution either, right? Nor is closing our eyes and saying it can't be done and there's no solution.

Cases like this, and cases that will arise in the future, require all of us to get involved in the problem. When legislators or governments are concerned about a problem, we should try to get involved in solving it. We should acknowledge the impact of the Internet—the Internet of all, and we are all responsible for solving it—and seek solutions together.

And others... That... That's when we want to solve problems that occur in the use of the Internet, affecting the Internet. Other problems that sometimes occur are when the divisions aren't so clear, and we want... We want to... Influence how markets or services work and force things on the Internet.

There are examples of this in the past, for example, when there were international interconnections and countries paid a lot for international traffic, the ITU thought about forcing conditions on the interconnections, or they believed they could force

conditions on the interconnections, to obtain benefits that were previously obtained.

Now, I don't know, operators want subsidies for their networks and want to force interconnections or interfere with interconnections between Internet networks to benefit a new tractor. So, again, things that happen at the Internet level have to be resolved in forums like this, involving people who can actually solve the problem, and they can't be forced.

The things that can be forced have to do with telecommunications and crimes, and the problems that occur with Internet use are crimes of real life, and the solution is not to interfere with or try to change things at the Internet level.

So, well, thank you very much to the chapter. And the message is that we should all get involved in these types of problems, try to contact and expose the people who can solve them, approach the chapters and ISOC when we see a problem that requires the technical community and everyone's involvement. And well, we're available.

Any questions? If not, thank you very much.